

5.

---

FROM WASHINGTON.

---

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27, 1864.

From Our Own Correspondent.

As the Administration has but nine days of

This enterprise, and it has already enlisted a formidable combination of interests from different sections. The South forms the basis of the movement, but the Northwest and a portion of the East have signified something more than willingness to co-operate. An agency has been regularly opened, and it is said by those who claim to be well-informed, that the persuasive influence of the gentleman has been added to the attractions of this opera-

The Secretary of the Treasury did not deem it necessary to make any recommendation adverse to the existing policy on iron, and, if with his experience of its practical working such a course was not regarded as expedient, it can hardly claim much merit in being urged by merely speculative parties and interests. The iron business is just beginning to assume stability, and for this nominal success,

which would have been vastly enhanced if specific duties had been retained, it is indebted to the adventitious circumstance of an augmented demand for railroads in Europe. This increase has seemed to act as an indirect protection, and simply

cause the demand has equaled, and perhaps exceeded the supply. The Tariff law itself has nothing to do with results which have been achieved in spite of its injurious policy. To free railroad iron because the Treasury is full and the revenue exceeds the expenditure, would be to try a temporary expedient by which one of the greatest industrial interests would be struck down and a monopoly established in foreign hands at the direct cost of consumers in the United States. If it be let alone to grow upon the improvements which ingenuity is daily introducing, a few years only will elapse be-

the prices must fall under the impact of even his limited encouragement. The great evil in our policy has been instability, as applied to all manufacturing industry. Our law is change, and almost every change is from bad to worse. If the tariff must be revised at all, let it be upon a comprehensive view of all the interests involved, and with a fair opportunity for each to be represented. No narrow or selfish scheming should be tolerated in laying the foundation of a national system like this, and any attempt to graft such special objects upon it will be resisted to the bitter end.

ago informed of all the points in the treaty which has just been published. The mere text does not, therefore, increase our stock of information. Publicity will only add to an effect which has already been freshened in a probable opposition. Walker's friends have all along signified their intention to use this treaty as a means of coercing his recognition by the Administration; and that purpose will be pursued now more vigorously than ever. If he should fail, his defeat will be made the occasion of an unforgetting hostility. If he should succeed, an additional reason will be found for imputing the

suggested condition. But, beside this qualified opposition, another is threatened from that interest in the Senate which claims the special guardianship of the Monroe doctrine, and the expansion of American institutions. Ten Senators recorded themselves in the negative against the Clayton-Bulwer Convention, among whom was Mr. Douglass, who registered himself three weeks after the vote. The reasons they assigned exist more strongly now, and they are likely to be urged with additional earnestness. In some respects this new arrangement resembles the one which Mr. Webster

ter and Mr. Crampton negotiated in 1852, under which Nicaragua at once unhesitatingly rejected. It does not include, however, one of the features of that arrangement, by which it was proposed to give the province of Guanacaste to Costa Rica. In other respects there are points of similarity. Walker's agents are prepared to acquiesce whenever their object can be accomplished, and they have authority to complete the forms as such as the Government here is disposed to renew recognition. But that event will not take place immediately, unless the fates should suddenly

and put a "bold face" on the holidays, it would have been more creditable than the small dodge of meeting every third day, only to adjourn again; and it would have had the additional merit of giving those of us who are workers in reality, and not mere shams, the advantage of a respite, which was much needed.

INDEX.

Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, 1856.

I have heretofore referred to the inextricable subject of public plundering. I have alluded to a bill before the Senate to pay two and a half or three millions to the descendants of Revolutionary officers—a claim got up after all the officers are dead, by men who want to get pay for their fathers' patriotism. The bill was run through the House at the last session, and only has to pass the ordeal of the Senate and the President. What chance there is of its being stopped at either point may be

judged of by the fact that there are button-hole and official and social relations enough between its recipients and Senators to secure its passage by them, and that, according to Senator Stuart, the President and his brother will take \$16,000 out of the Treasury by the signing of the bill. Mr. Pierce has hitherto escaped the imputation of dealing unfairly by the Treasury. We shall see how he escapes the dilemma before him in this bill.

This measure belongs to a class. It is not only

a bold grab at near three millions; it opens the way, and doubtless was intended to open the way, to probably ten millions more of pure stealings. In fact, it has already been suggested in the Senate and by newspaper correspondents that a bill covering other cases similar in principle shall be favorably considered, and ought to pass.

I will copy here what Mr. Toombs said of this bill in debate last Tuesday. It was the closing re-

"You are called upon to pass this bill to reward the children of those who fought for their own liberties. It is a very poor pretext for an honorable man to come and tell the Government, 'My ancestor fought for his own and the public liberty; he did not choose to be a slave to a foreign despotism; but with manliness, and honor, and patriotism, he fought during the war; now pay me for this. I want to be paid in hard dollars for the honor, and the civility, and patriotism of my ancestor.' I tell you, my friends, it is not good money— it is dishonorable to the memory of

Mr. Toombs's speech told powerfully upon the Senate, and if that body could be divested of the personal considerations connected with the bill, I have no doubt it would be overwhelmingly defeated. And now, by way of illustration of the manner in which this and kindred measures are crowded through Congress, I wish to make a short extract from Mr. Stuart's (of Michigan) speech upon the same bill on Tuesday. I wish room could be made

for more of the speech, for it touches this whole subject of plundering the Treasury in a very pointed manner:

"Why, Mr. President, does anybody suppose that this whole structure does not rest upon the efforts of agents? Have they not been engaged on this subject for years? Have not members of Congress been last